A/67/21

United Nations

Report of the Committee on Information

Thirty-fourth session (23 April-4 May 2012)

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 21

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

The Assembly requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to sixty-fifth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixty-sixth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 66/81 A and B.

3. The Committee is currently composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Benin
Angola	Brazil
Antigua and Barbuda	Bulgaria
Argentina	Burkina Faso
Armenia	Burundi
Austria	Cape Verde
Azerbaijan	Chile
Bangladesh	China
Belarus	Colombia
Belgium	Congo
Belize	Costa Rica

Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania

Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Chapter II
Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on Information was held on 23 April 2012 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Eduardo Ulibarri (Costa Rica).

B. Election of officers

5. Following the departure of Stéphane Crouzat (France) and Moses Sayela Walubita (Zambia), Vice-Chairs, at the end of their tours of duty at United Nations Headquarters, Guillaume Dabouis (France) and Chibaula D. Silwamba (Zambia) were elected to serve as Vice-Chairs for the remainder of the 2011-2012 term. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2011-2012 are as follows:

Chair:
Eduardo Ulibarri (Costa Rica)

Vice-Chairs:
Guillaume Dabouis (France)
Gheorghe Leuca (Republic of Moldova)
Chibaula D. Silwamba (Zambia)

Rapporteur:
Mohammad Reza Sahraei (Islamic Republic of Iran)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

6. At its organizational meeting, on 23 April, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2012/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Statement by the Chair.
5. Admission of new members.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

7. The Committee held its general debate from 23 to 25 April 2012. On 23 April, in the afternoon, the Department of Public Information, led by its Acting Head, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

8. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: news services (A/AC.198/2012/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: outreach services (A/AC.198/2012/4);

(d) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 24)).

D. Observers

9. Oman, which has applied for full membership in the Committee, took part in the session as an observer. The European Union, the Holy See, Palestine, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the World Meteorological Organization also participated in the session as observers.

Chapter III
General debate

10. Statements in the general debate were made by the following States members of the Committee on Information: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso (on behalf also of Chad, Mali and Niger), Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia. A representative of the European Union addressed the Committee on behalf of the members and associate members of the Union. Palestine, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the World Meteorological Organization addressed the meeting in their capacity as observers.

11. The general debate was preceded by statements made by the Chair of the Committee and the Acting Head of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat.

12. In taking up the substantive questions before the Committee, speakers emphasized the central role of the United Nations in global affairs and of the Department of Public Information as its public voice. One speaker, addressing the Committee on behalf of a large group, said that the close cooperation and partnership between the Department of Public Information and the Committee on Information had always been the cornerstone of the Department. He stressed the importance of strengthening that partnership and called for its continued improvement, as the Department served as the primary voice to promote the purposes and image of the United Nations. The speaker said his group fully supported the work of the Department in promoting and advancing the work of the Organization through campaigns on issues of importance to the international community. He highlighted, in particular, the role of the Department in the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and commended its discussion of a common strategy, its developing joint communications products and its coordinating messaging and activities in connection with the Conference.

13. Another speaker, also addressing the Committee on behalf of a large group, lauded the recent activities of the Department and made a particular reference to its efforts to catalyse support for the Rio+20 Conference. The speaker further singled out the participation of the Department in the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign as worth noting.

14. Several speakers discussed the role of new information and communications technologies, including new media, in promoting the work of the United Nations. One speaker, addressing the Committee on behalf of a large group, underlined that new information and communications technologies and social media not only enabled the United Nations to carry out numerous activities in a more cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner, but also paved the way to connect with new audiences, such as young people. The use of new media helped people in the Middle East to break through the barriers of censorship and repression, call out for justice and demand democratic change.

15. Another speaker, also representing several countries, agreed that it was necessary to capitalize on the opportunity to expand the new media platforms and mobile devices, but expressed concern about the growing digital gap between developed and developing countries. He considered that traditional media, such as radio, television and the written press, should continue to be used, since they were major sources of information in developing countries. Another speaker, also speaking on behalf of several other countries, noted that the information and communications technology revolution had changed the world and turned it into a global village. Yet, as traditional information tools such as radio, television and print were still often inaccessible in developing countries, there was a need to broaden the use of media through new communications tools. Similar views were expressed by several other speakers.

16. Several speakers stressed the need for closing the gap between developed and developing countries in the area of digital technology. One speaker argued that the current digital divide was responsible for increasing the social and equality divide. People affected by the divide were mostly located in developing countries, where only 15 per cent of the population were connected to the Internet and enjoyed access to new forms of media. Developed countries monopolized information services and manipulated the information that went out into the world.

17. Several speakers emphasized the importance of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. One speaker, noting that 3 May would be World Press Freedom Day, emphasized that a free press was essential for an empowered citizenry, Government accountability and responsible economic freedom. She said that article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stated that everyone had the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through media and regardless of frontiers, was more relevant in the current digital age than it had been six decades ago. Another speaker, recalling that the General Assembly had reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, noted that those principles were key instruments to achieving the objectives set in the Charter of the United Nations.

18. A number of speakers stressed the need for objectivity in the dissemination of information. One speaker argued that the United Nations needed to rely on reliable information resources, and not those that focused on narrow purposes and distortion, particularly in the Arab world. The reliance in the daily bulletins of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on information from Western mass media, while excluding the messages conveyed by other mass media, which presented a different image, should be reconsidered, in order to rebuild the credibility and impartiality of the Organization.

19. Another speaker encouraged the Department to strengthen its outreach efforts with academia, youth and civil society. The Department must continue to organize the annual conference with non-governmental organizations, which, in years past, had contributed to debates on disarmament and sustainable development.

20. One speaker, encouraging the Department to continue exploring ways to enhance its effectiveness, cautioned that expansion of any existing programmes should be done within the framework and intergovernmental character of the United Nations in order to maintain the authority of the Department, strengthen its

interaction with other parts of the United Nations system and prevent duplication of efforts and resources. The United Nations must only work with outside organizations within defined limits, in accordance with United Nations protocol and with the prior consent of Member States.

21. Many speakers emphasized the need to achieve linguistic parity in the work of the Department. One speaker, speaking on behalf of a large group, noted that despite the efforts made by the Department to improve multilingualism on its website, the disparity among the use of the official languages had deepened. He called for more resources and efforts to be allocated to achieving full parity of languages on the website, including for press releases. One speaker, speaking on behalf of a large group, deemed multilingualism to be a unique feature of the United Nations and a fundamental feature of multilateralism. It was a matter of accountability, transparency, ownership and, eventually, sustainability of the action carried out by the Organization.

22. Another speaker, also representing a large group, noted that the United Nations website had improved through better organization and remained an important asset, delivering messages about the work of the Organization straight to homes and offices in all six official languages. Enhanced cooperation at the regional and local levels and partnerships with academic institutions had proved to be an efficient way to increase the number of web pages available in all official languages. However, more such partnerships still needed to be developed. The speaker commended the efforts to reach all corners of the world, yet he still saw further potential in disseminating United Nations messages and going even further in the area of multilingualism, including the use of social media.

23. Another speaker, stressing the importance of multilingualism in the communications flows of the Organization, noted that, if the Department was to be the voice of Member States to the world, then it was important to make sure that that voice spoke as many languages as possible. Another speaker underlined the need for parity among the six official languages of the United Nations. He was concerned that despite the efforts made to improve the multilingual content of the United Nations website, the problem had not been resolved. He supported alternative solutions, such as the cooperation agreements reached with several universities to enable volunteers and educational institutions to continue providing services intended to diminish the language gap.

24. Several speakers stressed the need for the issuance of United Nations press releases in the six official languages. One speaker, voicing his concern that there had been no progress at all with regard to the writing and dissemination of daily press releases, which continued to be published in only two of the six official languages, called the situation "inadmissible". Reiterating the need for full respect for the necessary parity among the six official languages, he argued that the Department should be granted the necessary resources to that end. Expressing the sentiment of some other members of the Committee, he urged that a strategy be designed using creative ways to allow the publication of daily press releases in all official languages.

25. Referring to the need for exercising fiscal discipline and higher efficiency, one speaker expressed the hope that these would occur through the promotion of greater internal communication, networking with relevant United Nations agencies and coordination with civil society, business and other relevant groups in order to function better with existing resources.

26. Several speakers underscored the importance of closer cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support. One speaker, attaching great importance to United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world, urged the Department of Public Information to continue lending support to the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support in raising awareness about new realities on the ground, far-reaching successes and the challenges of peacekeeping operations. Another speaker, welcoming the efforts made throughout the year to translate and make available in all official languages the new website of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, observed that it contributed to the overall mission of the Department of Public Information to reach out to the people of the world.

27. Several speakers commented on the special information programme of the Department of Public Information on the question of Palestine. One speaker, representing a large group, noted that the programme was important because it helped to raise awareness of the issue in the international community and supported the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Another speaker noted that the Department played a very important role in training broadcasters and journalists from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which no doubt contributed to freedom of the press. She called on the Department to promote other activities requested by the General Assembly on the Palestinian question, including the dispatch of news teams to the region so as to convey the situation on the ground. Another speaker asked the Department to do a better job of creating awareness about the question of Palestine and the suffering of the Palestinians.

28. Several speakers lauded the Department for its work in fighting bigotry, racism and intolerance. One speaker welcomed the ongoing coverage by the Department of universal issues that were high on the United Nations agenda, such as xenophobia and racial and religious intolerances. He called for the continued preservation of the memory of the Second World War and the Holocaust, and warned against the propaganda of modern forms of Nazism, which, in some countries, were not repressed, but were encouraged at the State level. He noted with approval the activities of the Department involving young people, including the Model United Nations, which had won wide support in his country.

29. Another speaker, referring to the outreach activities of the Department, including the "UN4U" and United Nations Academic Impact initiatives, agreed that such initiatives helped to improve awareness about the goals, priorities and concerns of the United Nations and to strengthen international support for the role and activities of the world body. He stressed that such initiatives would help to build stronger ties between the United Nations and its global constituencies. His Government strongly supported the United Nations Academic Impact initiative, which went beyond the limited mandate of providing education and in fact enabled educational bodies to contribute to the United Nations.

30. Another speaker, while lauding the Department's outreach programme on the Holocaust, expressed concern over the disturbing proliferation of individuals and organizations that denied the Holocaust. The Department could play a critical role in pushing back against such dangerous tides, she said. She also expressed concern over the Palestinian information programme, saying that it offered a narrative of the region that was biased and misleading.

31. One speaker, warning against "Islamophobia" and the defamation of Islam geared towards dehumanizing Muslims, called on the Department to counter that phenomenon and to facilitate dialogue between different civilizations and cultures.

32. Most speakers commended the work of United Nations information centres and called for their operations to be strengthened. One speaker, speaking on behalf of a large group, referred to the financial challenges faced by the information centres and noted concurrence within his group with the concern expressed by the Secretary-General in his report about ageing equipment and the lack of a cost-effective, enterprise-level system to access tools such as the United Nations intranet and e-mail system. His group welcomed the offer by some Member States of rent-free premises to host information centres. Nevertheless, such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for United Nations information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations.

33. Another speaker, also representing a large group, stressed that it was paramount for the Department to make the best strategic use of the wealth of available resources, including its network of United Nations information centres, as well as all other United Nations entities at the national and regional levels, to speak with one strong and clear voice. He welcomed the efforts aimed at rationalizing the network of information centres along the lines of the centre in Brussels, which provided coverage of most of Western Europe in as many as 13 different languages. In that regard, he noted that the United Nations Communications Group might prove to be a useful platform for sharing best practices about the use of local and United Nations official languages.

34. Another speaker, representing several countries, agreed that the United Nations information centres played a crucial role in disseminating information, particularly in areas with scarce access to it. He stressed the need to maintain and strengthen the centres in Africa, given the dearth of digital technology on the continent, which made it difficult to transmit information across long distances. Another speaker asked the Secretary-General to make further efforts to guarantee the functioning of the information centre in his country, which was needed to keep the United Nations close to the population it served. Noting that the entire dissemination strategy of the information centre to date was based on print, radio and television, he said that his Government was willing to engage in efforts in the coming months to guarantee greater dissemination of information.

35. One speaker commended the role of the Secretariat in holding the official commemorative ceremony of the International Day of Nowruz on 22 March 2012 and encouraged the Department of Public Information to continue to play its effective role in promoting and raising awareness of that event.

36. Several speakers offered a number of proposals for consideration by the Department. One speaker requested that consideration be given to turning the information centre in Moscow into a training centre for journalists and information staff serving in the region. Another speaker, stressing the importance of radio, called upon the Department to promote an international day of radio.

37. Recognizing work with higher education students as an important component of United Nations outreach activity, one speaker requested the United Nations Academic Impact to consider interaction with global organizations for university students and to use events organized by them as venues to promote the United Nations core values among students.

Chapter IV
Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session

38. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Committee on Information proceeded to adopt its draft report, including two draft resolutions and a draft decision, by consensus. A text submitted by the Group of 77 and China formed the basis for negotiation of the draft resolutions, which involved two negotiating groups, the Group of 77 and China and the European Union, as well as other Member States. The Committee also took note of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 24)).

Questions relating to information

Draft resolution A
Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,[2]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/67/21).

[2] A/67/____.

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communications technology available on the open market;

(f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[3] which should support both public and private media.

Draft resolution B
United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it established the Department of Public Information, with a view to promoting to the greatest

[3] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, Belgrade, 23 September-28 October 1980*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

Emphasizing that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely and relevant information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Recalling its resolution 65/107 B of 10 December 2010, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department and to maximize the use of its resources,

Expressing its concern that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and, in this regard, underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of information and communications technologies in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and, at the same time, emphasizing that the development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Recalling its resolution 65/311 of 19 July 2011, on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, as well as the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information,

I
Introduction

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective

manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Public Information in this context;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

4. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations public information policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Public Information shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities laid down by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244 of 24 December 2010, and recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[4] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] to pay particular attention to peace and security, development and human rights and to major issues such as the eradication of poverty, including the global food crisis, conflict prevention, sustainable development, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the needs of the African continent;

6. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the outcomes of the major related United Nations summits and conferences in carrying out its activities, and calls upon the Department to play an active role in raising public awareness of the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and of the global challenge of climate change, in particular the actions taken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6] especially in the context of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, particularly in the context of the Conference of the Parties and of the Meetings of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;[7]

II
General activities of the Department of Public Information

7. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information;[8]

8. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation and to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat;

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[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] Ibid., vol. 2303, No. 30822.

[8] A/AC.198/2012/2-4.

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of more effective coordination between the Department of Public Information and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization;

10. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

11. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication, bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

12. *Notes* with appreciation the efforts of the Department of Public Information to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, urges the Department of Public Information to encourage the United Nations Communications Group to promote linguistic diversity in its work, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session on progress achieved in this regard;

13. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[9] to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website and the United Nations News Service, contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

15. *Reiterates* its request to the Department of Public Information and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in order to avoid duplication, within their respective mandates, in the issuance of United Nations publications;

16. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to consult on opportunities for merging their publishing activities and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session;

[9] ST/SGB/2000/8.

17. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

18. *Reiterates* its concern that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages, and requests the Department of Public Information to design a strategy to deliver daily press releases in all six official languages through creative schemes, within existing resources and in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session;

Multilingualism and public information

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information, whether based on traditional or new media, including in presentations to the Committee on Information, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the five other official languages;

20. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all the official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities and to include this aspect in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

21. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance multilingualism in all its activities, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations website and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 65/311;

Bridging the digital divide

22. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society[10] and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, including by commemorating World Information Society Day on 17 May;

[10] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687.

Network of United Nations information centres

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in disseminating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

24. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages the network of information centres to continue to develop web pages in local languages and the Department of Public Information to provide necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all the corners of the world, in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

25. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

26. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

27. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

28. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work;

29. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the effective flow of information in those countries;

30. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

31. *Further stresses* that the Department of Public Information should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries;

32. *Welcomes* the support of some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

33. *Notes* the strengthening of the United Nations information centres in Cairo, Mexico City and Pretoria, and encourages the Secretary-General to explore the strengthening of other centres, especially in Africa, in cooperation with the Member States concerned and in a cost-neutral manner;

34. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations information centre in Luanda as a contribution towards addressing the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to take the measures necessary for the prompt establishment of the information centre, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session on the progress made in this regard;

35. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, when appointing directors to the United Nations information centres, to fully consider, inter alia, the experience of candidates in the field of information and communications technology as one of the highly desirable appointment criteria;

III
Strategic communications services

36. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates;

Promotional campaigns

37. *Appreciates* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sustainable development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, including the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases and other diseases, the needs of the African continent, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's

Development,[11] the special needs of the least developed countries, the establishment of the permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of all these issues;

38. *Requests* the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information, to contribute to the observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July, in accordance with Assembly resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, and the International Day of Nowruz on 21 March, in accordance with Assembly resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate;

39. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and requests the Department to widely disseminate information on the outcomes of the Conference;

40. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and disseminate information, in a cost-neutral manner, on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010;

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding

41. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department of Public Information from the planning stage of future peacekeeping operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support;

42. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, far-reaching successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, and the recent surge in United Nations peacekeeping activities, and welcomes efforts by the three Departments to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping;

[11] A/57/304, annex.

43. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions and, in this regard, invites the Department of Public Information to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations or missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

44. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts in supporting the peacekeeping missions to further develop their websites;

45. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving peacekeeping personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, and also to inform the public of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel;[12]

46. *Takes note* of the importance of communication and information activities relating to peacebuilding efforts, in particular those of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, and requests the Department of Public Information to cooperate with these entities in that regard, with a view to widening outreach of their important work;

Role of the Department of Public Information in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as means of enhancing understanding among nations

47. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace,[13] and requests the Department of Public Information, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns under this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

48. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Public Information, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme

[12] Resolution 62/214, annex.

[13] Resolution 52/15, 53/22, 53/25, 55/23, 56/6, 59/142 and 60/4.

of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[14] and, in this regard, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session the report requested by the Assembly in its resolution 60/4 of 20 October 2005;

49. *Recognizes* the achievements of the Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts made by the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, which it had welcomed in its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, takes note of the broad range of initiatives and partnerships in the areas of youth, education, the media and migration launched at the fourth Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held in Doha from 11 to 13 December 2011, and welcomes the continuing support of the Department of Public Information for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, including its ongoing projects;

IV
News services

50. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Public Information is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in all four mass media, namely, print, radio, television and the Internet, to the media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism, and reiterates its request to the Department to ensure that all news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

51. *Recognizes* the important role of television services provided by the Department, and takes note of the recent efforts in making available online broadcast-quality video that can be downloaded by smaller broadcast outlets that do not have access to satellite feeds;

52. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Department of Public Information continuing to draw the attention of world media to stories that do not obtain prominent coverage, through the initiative entitled "10 Stories the World Should Hear More About" and through video and audio coverage by United Nations Television and United Nations Radio;

Traditional means of communication

53. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance the timeliness, presentation and thematic focus of its multilingual programmes on United Nations activities and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of its programming to media outlets using the most suitable platforms and formats, prerecorded or live, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to achieve parity in the six official languages in United Nations Radio productions;

54. *Also welcomes* the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session, proclaiming 13 February, the day United Nations Radio was established in

[14] Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

1946, as World Radio Day,[15] and recommends that the General Assembly endorse that resolution at its sixty-seventh session;

55. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese and Kiswahili, as well as in other languages where possible;

56. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue building partnerships with local, national and regional broadcasters to extend the United Nations message to all the corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the News and Media Division to continue to take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years;

United Nations website

57. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public and, in this regard, reiterates the continued need for strengthened efforts by the Department of Public Information to maintain and improve it;

58. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to access the United Nations website, and calls upon the Department to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities;

59. *Notes* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website has improved,[16] and, in this regard, requests the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices of the Secretariat, to further improve the actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website, and especially reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure the adequate distribution of financial and human resources within the Department allocated to the United Nations website among all official languages, taking into consideration the specificity of each official language;

60. *Recognizes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in some official languages, and reiterates its urgent request to the Secretary-General to extend those arrangements to all the official languages of the United Nations;

61. *Reiterates* its request that all content-providing offices of the Secretariat translate all English-language materials and databases posted on the United Nations website into all other official languages and make them available on the respective language websites in the most practical, efficient and cost-effective manner;

62. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information on a continuous basis in order to widen the

[15] See A/67/62, annex.

[16] See A/AC.198/2007/3.

outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

63. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take full advantage of new developments in information technology in order to improve the expeditious dissemination of information on the United Nations in a cost-neutral manner, in accordance with the priorities established by the General Assembly in its resolutions and taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization, recognizes the e-mail news alerts service, and encourages the Department to consult with the Office of Information and Communications Technology in order to explore, as a matter of priority, the provision of the service in all official languages;

64. *Recognizes* that some official languages use non-Latin and bidirectional scripts and that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and urges the Office of Information and Communications Technology to further collaborate with the Department of Public Information and to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

V
Library services

65. *Calls upon* the Department of Public Information, recognizing the importance of audiovisual archives and the actions taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to preserve the published record of the Organization as a common heritage, welcoming the completion of an inventory of sixty-five years of United Nations audiovisual history, stressing the urgency of digitization in order to prevent further deterioration of the unique historical archives, and taking note of efforts made by the Department thus far to develop a digitization strategy in consultation with other departments, including the Office of Information and Communications Technology, to explore avenues of support for digitization, including working with interested partners, to ensure that such archives are preserved and are accessible;

66. *Requests*, in that context, that the Department of Public Information implement the recommendations of its working group on library improvement;

67. *Calls upon* the Department of Public Information to continue to lead the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, and further commends the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other member libraries of the Steering Committee to align their activities, services and outputs more closely with the goals, objectives and operational priorities of the Organization;

68. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in hard copy, accessible to Member States and others as specified in paragraph 71 of the present resolution, ensuring that the Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities;

69. *Calls upon* the Department of Public Information, recognizing the importance of audiovisual archives in preserving our common heritage, to continue

to examine its policies and activities regarding the durable preservation of its radio, television, film and photographic archives and the action taken in ensuring that the archives are preserved and are accessible, including in the context of the construction work of the capital master plan within the overall budget of the plan;

70. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

71. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

72. *Notes* the efforts of the iSeek team, through the intranet, to raise awareness among staff members of new initiatives and developments of different departments of the Secretariat, and requests the Department of Public Information to work out a strategy for Member States to also benefit from these new developments;

VI
Outreach services

73. *Takes note* of the letter dated 30 April 2012 from the Senior Public Information and Liaison Officer of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Chair of the Committee on Information,[17] and encourages the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education in all regions to support the common principles and goals of the Organization, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution;

74. *Acknowledges* that the outreach services provided by the Department of Public Information continue to work towards promoting awareness of the role and work of the United Nations;

75. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations Works programme and the Global Teaching and Learning Project, to reach educators and young people worldwide via a range of multimedia platforms, and encourages the United Nations Works programme to continue to develop further its partnerships with global media networks and celebrity advocates and the Global Teaching and Learning Project to further expand its activities to teachers and students in primary, intermediate and secondary schools;

76. *Notes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

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[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/67/21), annex.

77. *Welcomes* the movement towards educational outreach and the orientation of the *UN Chronicle*, both print and online editions, and, to this end, encourages the *UN Chronicle* to continue to develop co-publishing partnerships, collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

78. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue the publication of *UN Chronicle* with a view to improving it further in a cost-neutral manner and to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session on progress in this matter, and reiterates its request to submit options for publishing *UN Chronicle* in all six official languages;

79. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Public Information in organizing exhibitions on important United Nations-related issues, within existing mandates, at United Nations Headquarters and at other United Nations offices as a useful tool for reaching out to the general public, reaffirms the important role that guided tours play as a means of reaching out to the general public, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the guided tours provided at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations duty stations are consistently available, in accordance with their income-generating nature, in particular in all the United Nations official languages;

80. *Also notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to strengthen its role as a focal point for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States, and further notes, in this regard, the increasing involvement of civil society in United Nation activities;

81. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

82. *Expresses* its appreciation for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to involve them in its communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

VII
Final remarks

83. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution;

84. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the level of services provided by the Department of Public Information is maintained throughout the period of the implementation of the capital master plan;

85. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service, during the annual general debate of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to press officers of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

86. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

87. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

Draft decision
Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information

The General Assembly decides to increase the membership of the Committee on Information from 113 to 114 and to appoint Oman as a member of the Committee on Information.

Annex

Letter dated 30 April 2012 from the Senior Public Information and Liaison Officer of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Chair of the Committee on Information

On behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), I would like to submit, as requested, for consideration by the Committee on Information the following clarification on the draft resolution:

> "UNESCO welcomes and is fully supportive of the United Nations Academic Impact. The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (2009) was among the first international forums to which the initiative was presented as an endeavour to involve institutions of higher education and research as a vital civil society resource that contributes to the realization of the United Nations mission and mandates."

(*Signed*) Suzanne **Bilello**
Senior Public Information and Liaison Officer
UNESCO Office in New York

12-33684 (E) 060612